

# THE CHRONICLE.

D. F. WRIGHT, M. D., Editor.

Clarksville, Tenn., June 19, 1880.

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CONVENTIONS OF 1880.

Democratic National Convention, Cincinnati, June 22.

State Democratic Convention, to nominate a candidate for Governor, Tuesday August 18.

DARK HORSES.

Since the presidency of Jackson it has been the rule, with but few exceptions, that the men who have attained the presidency have been either successful military chiefs, or third-rate politicians never heard of as men eligible for high office till nominated for it by their party. It is surely worth while enquiring what is the cause of this evil, for usually it is an evil. If our countrymen were what the sovereigns are in England, men who reign but do not rule, it would signify but little what might be their capacity, but our presidents do rule; even the weakest of them exercise powers which are potent factors in the national policy, and it does seem that men exercising such powers ought to possess exceptional faculties for wielding them with good judgment. Instead of this, Harrison, Taylor and Grant, among our military presidents; Polk, Pierce and Hayes, among those selected from political life, have been men of whom the best that has been said has been that they have done better than might have been expected; while Clay, Webster and Calhoun, who have spent laborious lives defining and contending for lines of policy that are deeply engraved on the history of the nation; all failed to attain the highest office in our political system, although two of them made great efforts towards the attainment of it, backed by a zealous retinue of supporting friends. Calhoun, it is true, did not aim at it, but deliberately adopted a defensive policy in behalf of the south which he knew must exclude him from it. He was one of our very few statesmen who saw that there are objects greater than the presidency to aim at, and regulated his political career accordingly.

We have said that this state of affairs has existed ever since the days of Jackson, which is, in fact, exactly the period during which the convention system has existed as a method for designating candidates for the presidency. We are far from thinking it inseparable from that method; if we did, it would not be worth while discussing it for the convention system will probably last for many years yet. It is more profitable to enquire what is the vice in carrying out the system which has established the strange evil we are speaking of?

As we have just gone through one convention and are just looking for another, this may be a favorable time for attracting men's attention to the matter. Everybody understood that at the recent republican convention General Grant was the most prominent figure, not only from the long continued demonstration made in his favor, but also from the quantity and intensity of what was said against him. After him came two very conspicuous men, each with a large retinue of friends, each of whom had been worked for in a very energetic canvass—Messrs. Blaine and Sherman. But all three of these conspicuous candidates were the subject of misgivings on the part of the adherents left should fail to be nominated, and they were not nominated—why? And Mr. Garfield had been spoken of by nobody as a candidate, no canvass had been made in his name, no resolutions passed in his favor in primaries or in county or state conventions, yet he was nominated—why?

In the case of General Grant, something must be attributed to the general aversion, on the part of both the people and the politicians, to the third term, something but not much. The great body of republican papers and speakers had commenced throwing scorn upon the scruples which opposed it as on a groundless superstition, and we have no doubt that the great body of the party were prepared to swallow their objections if the General were once nominated. A very small though a highly respectable minority would have still demurred, but the respectable minority has long ceased to be listened to by those who rule the party, and all, save the very few, would soon have wheeled into line; at least this has been the history of what are called the liberal republicans for some years, they have always in the end been dragged along by the wheels of the vast majority.

But what did Grant want? He had what he desired, and he was the indirect result of his adherents. From the very day on which the General vacated the white house, an active and far-seeing junta had been planning the course of events which were to render his nomination and election inevitable in 1880. The purpose at which preparations aimed, was at first disavowed, but as the fated year drew on and other names emerged as possible candidates, the Grant boom was openly proclaimed, and its action was not merely defensive, it attacked with intense energy wherever competing claims were put forward. It was when the question of nomination came before the state conventions of New York and Pennsylvania that this aggressive intensity attained its extreme development. Conkling in one convention and Cameron in the other, first used the most unscrupulous means to prevent any but Grant delegates being sent to those conventions, and such as could not be elected were to be paralyzed and silenced by the iniquitous unit rule; the men might be opposed to Grant and the third term, but their votes should be recorded in his favor.

One thing we must remember, that it is the final condemnation of the unit rule, which is the favorite instrument by which politicians convert public organizations from the interests of the people to their own interests. Deprived then, by this breaking down of the unit rule,

of all votes except those of men really devoted to him, (we will not enquire into the motives of Grant's very strong contingent; he counted 905 votes, and this contingent remained solidly devoted to him to the end, it was never infringed upon, it was never materially added to. Now, what we wish our readers to see, is that it was the same cause which preserved the members of Grant's contingent intact, and prevented it from being recruited. A vox that has been made since the nomination, prove that there was an understanding between Blaine and Sherman that through-out the preliminary proceedings they should act together as against Grant, and they did so, and it was in virtue of those preliminary proceedings that the unit rule was discarded whereby Grant's vote was diminished by at least seventy votes, and his nomination virtually rendered impossible, all the previous machinations of Conkling and Cameron being thereby discredited and thrown out of gear. It was by those preliminary proceedings also that the contestant delegations from Illinois were admitted and Logan's exploits in counting out set at naught, and these two transactions made Grant's nomination an impossibility even before balloting commenced. A convention has since been reported in which the Maine senator consoled himself over his own failure by the reflection that he had succeeded in preventing the renomination of Grant.

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The result of all this as affects the republican party and its nomination does not at all distress us, but, unfortunately, we have a good deal of the same thing in the democratic party. In that party also the nomination of one man's candidacy commenced almost with the inauguration of the present incumbent. The adherents of Mr. Tilden, ever since Mr. Hayes became president, have been working not only to promote his nomination but to make any other nomination impossible. Their operations have been aggressive as regards Messrs. Hendricks, Thurman, Bayard, and even lately, we notice, as regards Judge Field. About two years ago it was announced in the Sun, and repeated over and over again by Tilden papers west and south, that no democrat could walk into the presidency over the dead body of Mr. Tilden, and it is well known that if that gentleman cannot be nominated, the influence of his adherents will be exerted primarily to defeat the nomination of any of the gentlemen mentioned, and as a specimen of the policy of some politician who will accept the presidency as the gift of Mr. Tilden and yield to him the control of his power and patronage.

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Our readers will think that we ought, by this time, to have something to say about the platform adopted by the republicans at Chicago. It is an unsavory task to analyze it, and we take it in installments. To do justice to the whole of that stupendous mass of pretensions and hypocrisy in one paper, would be too much for the patience of the most persevering reader, to say nothing of the power of endurance of the editor.

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BOLIVAR, TENN.  
DYERSBURG, TENN.

**NOW OPEN**

And ready for inspection, an immense stock of

**NEW SPRING AND SUMMER GOODS.**

To meet the demands of our rapidly increasing trade, we have this spring filled our Third Story with goods also, so that we now have THREE FLOORS 50x100 FEET EACH.

**CROWDED WITH DRY GOODS.**

Notions, Hats, Boots and Shoes,

**GENTS' FURNISHING GOODS,**

Clothing, Carpets, Oil Cloth, Matting,

**LADIES' TRIMMED HATS,**

Being without doubt, by far the Largest Stock ever brought to this city by any firm, and buying, not from jobbers, but first hands, we are enabled to put our prices so low as to

**Defy Competition.**

Our motto is to sell the very best goods at the very lowest prices, thereby making it to the interest of our customers to deal with us.

**We invite Everyone to call and examine**

**our Goods and Prices, feeling satisfied**

**that we can make it to your**

**interest to do so.**

**E. BUTTERICK & CO.'S METROPOLITAN FASHIONS.**

Patterns will be sent by mail postpaid on receipt of price.

April 24, 1880, tf.

**NEW SPRING STOCK.**

**DRY GOODS.**

Notions, Carpeting, Mattings, Oil

Cloths, Boots, Shoes and Hats,

at Wholesale and Retail,

**Coulter Bro. & Stratton's.**

We will offer on next MONDAY, the 12th, extra jobs in several styles of

**Ladies' & Misses' Hosiery,**

Gloves and Handkerchiefs,

**TABLE LINENS, TOWELS**

**NAPKINS,**

Ladies' Ties, Fans and Parasols.

We have an extra large stock of these goods, and

**THEY MUST BE SOLD.**

Come early if you want bargains.

We also wish to call your attention to our stock of

**DRESS GOODS,**

of which we have the largest stock ever offered by us, in all the new styles and shades, and the best stock of Black Goods in the city, consisting of

**BLACK SILKS, BLACK CASHMERES,**

all Wool, and Silk Warp Tansie, Henrietta Cloth, French Bunting and French Dr. De Anna Cloth Cape, De Merita Bunting, with all the new trimmings and buttons to match. Also, Kid and Lisle Gloves; Lace Top and Lace Mitts, to match all new shades of Dress Goods.

200-Samples sent to any part of the country on application.

Remember the Bargains for next week.

**Coulter Bro. & Stratton,**  
48 Franklin Street, Clarksville, Tenn.

**MAGNOLIA WMS.**  
Paragon Hams,  
**Dried Beef**  
BREAKFAST BACON,  
Virginia Roe Herring,  
Deviled Ham,  
Deviled Tongue,  
Deviled Turkey,  
Deviled Chicken,  
**COOKED CORNED BEEF**  
COLD LUNCH MEATS,  
Canned Fish, &c.  
**GROCERIES.**  
ROYAL BAKING POWDER,  
Steel & Price's Baking Powder,  
Charm Baking Powder,  
Homest Baking Powder,  
Burnett's Flavoring Extracts  
CROSSE & BLACKWELL'S  
ENGLISH PICKLES.  
Domestic Pickles of all Kinds.  
**Pure Spices.**  
**Pure Apple Vinegar.**  
Eagle Condensed Milk  
**LEMONS.**

**CASTNER BAUMONT & CO.**

**COFFEES!**  
Old Government Padang Java,  
Golden Rio,  
Green Rio.

We buy the very finest Coffee to be had, and do our own roasting and grinding in the store.